

Sentences and Sentence Fragments

2a. A **sentence** is a word group that contains a subject and a verb and that expresses a complete thought.

A **sentence fragment** is a word or word group that is capitalized and punctuated as a sentence but that does not contain both a subject and a verb or that does not express a complete thought.

FRAGMENT Tony, the outstanding baseball player on the team.

SENTENCE Tony, the outstanding baseball player on the team, is my brother.

SENTENCE Hurry! [*You* is the understood subject.]

EXERCISE A Identify each of the following groups of words as a sentence or a sentence fragment. On the line provided, write *S* if the group of words is a sentence or *F* if it is a fragment.

Example *F* 1. The lamp that tipped on its side and shattered.

_____ 1. The delicately sculptured, alabaster Chinese statue.

_____ 2. At Saint Croix in the Virgin Islands, where the water is warm.

_____ 3. Glancing at the thick Sunday paper.

_____ 4. The aircraft that just departed is headed toward Denver.

_____ 5. Lois Lane, the *Daily Planet's* star reporter, whom Superman loved.

_____ 6. Before marching down the deck, the sailor saluted the captain.

_____ 7. After the violent summer storm, we were content to stay at home.

_____ 8. On a scorching summer day when children and adults enjoy cool, fresh fruit and sip icy lemonade.

_____ 9. The painting of a little girl with somber brown eyes.

_____ 10. Stretching for miles through barren and rocky terrain.

EXERCISE B Identify each of the following groups of words as a sentence or a sentence fragment. On the line provided, write *S* if the group of words is a sentence or *F* if it is a fragment.

Example *F* [1] Six students who joined the chess club.

_____ [11] Campaigning to encourage more students to join the chess club. _____ [12] Several new students became members of the school's chess team. _____ [13] The important competition scheduled for next month. _____ [14] The team was both nervous and excited about the event. _____ [15] Everyone studied the common strategies used to succeed.